

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 L-03 H-01 NSC-05 VO-03

SCA-01 CIAE-00 FBIE-00 INSE-00 NSAE-00 EB-07 CG-00

DOT-00 DODE-00 TRSE-00 SCS-03 /053 W

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FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9755

INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

MARAD WASHDC

USDOC WASHDC

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCLR, CVIS, NO, UR, US

SUBJECT: CREW LIST VISA PROBLEMS

REF: (A) MOSCOW 9517, (B) STATE 141737

1. CONSULAR COUNSELOR CALLED ON MFA CONSULAR ADMINISTRATION COUNSELOR S.M. SUSLIN AND SECOND SECRETARY V.P. ZOLOTAREV JULY 11 TO CONFIRM THAT CREW LIST VISA PROBLEM HAS BEEN RESOLVED AS ANNOUNCED JULY 1 BY CHIEF OF FOREIGN RELATIONS DIVISION OF SOVIET MINISTRY OF MARITIME FLEET IGOR AVERIN, AS REPORTED REFTEL A. SUSLIN STATED THAT MFA CONSULAR ADMINISTRATION DEFERRED TO MARITIME FLEET MINISTRY'S DECISION IN THIS MATTER.

2. CONSULAR COUNSELOR ALSO DISCUSSED LYKES BROTHERS STEAMSHIP CO. VISA PROBLEM AND HANDED SUSLIN COPY OF CORRESPONDENCE FROM SOVIET EMBASSY'S CONSULAR DIVISION TO MR. NELSON WHICH DEPARTMENT HAD POUCHED TO EMBASSY. SUSLIN AGREED TO STUDY MATTER, ADDING THAT IN PRINCIPLE ANY DECISION MADE BY SOVIET CONSULAR DIVISION IN WASHINGTON MAY BE CONSIDERED AUTHORITATIVE

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3. RE. DEPARTMENT'S QUERY IN PARA 9 OF REFTEL B, CONSOFF CHECKED WITH CONSOFFS AT BRITISH AND WEST GERMAN EMBASSIES CONCERNING SOVIET PRACTICE ON VISAS, SHORE LEAVE, ETC., FOR MERCHANT CREWMEN FROM THEIR COUNTRIES. BRITISH AND GERMAN CONSOFFS INDIRECTLY CONFIRMED SOVIET ASSERTION THAT LIBERAL SHORE LEAVE POLICY IN EFFECT AND THAT NO VISAS ARE REQUIRED FOR MERCHANT MARINE CREWS DOCKING IN USSR AND

VICE VERSA. ALTHOUGH BRITISH AND GERMAN CONSOFFS
STATED THEY HAVE NO DIRECT KNOWLEDGE OF SITUATION, FACT THAT
THEY THEMSELVES DO NOT ISSUE VISAS TO SOVIET CREWS AND THAT
NO CREWMEN'S VISA PROBLEMS HAVE EVER ARISEN IN THEIR MEMORY,
TENDS TO CONFIRM THAT THERE IS RECIPROCALLY LIBERAL PRACTICE
WITH USSR IN THIS REGARD.
TOON

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